



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

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MEMA'S 2016 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's 2016 Hurricane Preparedness Conference, held on May 26, 2016 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Norwood, proved to be very successful. The day-long conference, entitled "Building Resilience by Reducing Infrastructure Vulnerability," brought together almost 400 attendees from all disciplines and levels of emergency preparedness and response. The conference focused on identifying vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure related to hurricanes and enhancing resilience. Featured presenters included James Franklin, Branch Chief, National Hurricane Center; National Weather Service Meteorologist-in-Charge Bob Thompson; Michael Byrne, FEMA Deputy Region II Administrator; Stephen Flynn, Co-Director of the George J. Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security; and John Norden, Director of Operations, ISO New England. This was a great opportunity for participants to share their ideas and best practices, gain knowledge and insight about existing vulnerabilities and mitigation initiatives, and network with other emergency management and public safety professionals.



U.S. DOT HAZMAT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

Through a recent competitive sub-grant process, MEMA has awarded additional U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness funds to six Emergency Planning Committees. These funds will support hazardous materials transportation planning efforts at the local level.

The Brockton Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) received \$4,990.26 to support purchase of IT equipment and conduct planning activities.

The Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) received \$4,980 to conduct a full-scale exercise.

The Northern Berkshire REPC received \$4,699.96 to conduct of a full-scale exercise.

Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor

Daniel Bennett, Secretary of Public Safety & Security
Kurt N. Schwartz, MEMA Director

The West Springfield LEPC received \$2,000 to support attendance at a Hazardous Materials training conference.

The Westfield LEPC received \$4,927 for purchase of Haz-Mat training materials

The Southern Berkshire REPC received \$938 to support purchase of Haz-Mat suits for use during exercises.

GREEN RIVER CEMENTARY LANDSLIDE HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT

A mudslide/landslide involving a volume of 1,500 to 3,000 cubic yards occurred in Greenfield, MA in March 2011. Three houses were affected, 17 people were evacuated, damage occurred to several cars and personal property, and graves in a cemetery were threatened by erosion. Subsequent to the mudslide, Greenfield applied for and was awarded federal hazard mitigation grant funds. The mitigation project involved stabilizing the slope area and mitigating future slides at the Green River Cemetery, in order to protect the grave plots within the cemetery, as well as to restore and protect public and private facilities. Construction included installing a drainage pipe 4-8 feet below the surface and placing catch basins to add sufficient drainage for the soils. This project is anticipated to provide protection for a 100-year storm event. The total costs of the project were \$220,000 and 75% of the funds were awarded under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP 1959).



Before:



After:

FIELD DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

During the month of May, MEMA utilized field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

May 1: MEMA supported Millville's 100th Anniversary Parade with the Mobile Emergency Operational Center (MEOC) and cache radios. These assets were utilized to enhance communications coverage along the parade route.

May 6: MEMA supported Northeastern University's commencement activities with the MEOC. The MEOC was utilized as a command post for local, state and federal public safety agencies.

May 14: MEMA supported Southbridge's 200th Anniversary Parade with the MEOC and cache radios. The MEOC was utilized as a unified command post.

May 27-29: MEMA supported Deerfield Academy's commencement activities. The Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST) was utilized to enhance communications among the various public safety partners during the event.

CEAS PROGRAM STANDS UP IN MASSACHUSETTS

MEMA continues as a strong partner with the non-profit, Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNET) in the implementation of the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS) in Massachusetts. CEAS is a post-disaster business continuity program that facilitates travel and access into restricted areas for key private sector personnel and resources through the use of a common credential. The program provides a simple means of identification -- a centrally issued, pre-authorized secure credential which is issued to a limited number of employees of eligible companies and organizations. With the start of this year's Hurricane Season, many businesses and organizations throughout the Commonwealth have been searching the CEAS website at www.ceas.com/ma to learn more about CEAS and to register their employees.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the month of May, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 166 students in 7 different classes covering the following topics: *ICS-100/NIMS-700*; *ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents*; *ICS-400: Advanced*; *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Manager*; and *Community Points of Distribution (CPOD)*. To date, in 2016, 1,137 students have taken 47 separate MEMA supported classes. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

MEMA STAFF UPDATE

Recent staff changes: Carrie Clifton is now the MEMA Training and Exercise Unit Registration Coordinator. Maggie Fiola has transferred from Region II to MEMA HQ to provide front desk/reception and administrative support services.

LATEST FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TOTALS FOR 2015 BLIZZARDS

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continues to advance. As of the end of May, 846 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA. The total project costs reflected in these PWs is over \$51.7M in federal assistance to local communities, state agencies, and private non-profits (75% of the \$68.4M obligated project costs).

UPDATED MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT MEMBERS

MEMA continues to encourage all communities and governmental entities to take advantage of the opportunity to opt into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement program. To date, 297 communities and organizations are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 228 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/mutual-aid.html>. Local officials with any questions regarding the agreements should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips at allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

CITY OF BOSTON DESIGNATED STORMREADY

On May 9, the National Weather Service (NWS) announced that the City of Boston has received a *StormReady* designation. Boston joins 15 MA communities, six colleges and universities, one military

site and one commercial enterprise, to receive a *StormReady* designation. To earn this designation, a community must fulfill several requirements, including: establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public; create a system that monitors weather conditions locally; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises. "While no community can ever be stormproof, being *StormReady* means that the City of Boston has multiple ways to receive and disseminate warnings to key officials, first responders and to the public," stated Glenn Field, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NWS in Taunton. For additional information about the *StormReady* program, go to <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS REPORT RELEASED

FEMA recently released the 2016 National Preparedness Report (NPR). The NPR is an annual status report summarizing the Nation's progress toward reaching the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. In its fifth year, the report evaluates and measures gains that have been made in preparedness across the nation and identifies where challenges remain. These findings provide practical insights into preparedness and should be used to support decisions about future program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions. State, local, tribal, and territorial governments continue to use federal planning and training programs to enhance their capabilities through systematic preparation for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the Nation. A wide range of events in the past year from contaminated drinking water and wildland fires, to malicious cyber activity and terror attacks involving active shooters, reaffirm the value of a capabilities-based approach rather than a scenario-based approach to preparedness.

The 2016 report identifies 37 key findings across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas describing the progress made during 2015 to advance national preparedness. The NPR also identified the following core capabilities as national areas for improvement: cybersecurity, economic recovery, housing, infrastructure systems, natural and cultural resources, and supply chain integrity and security. Each of these core capabilities were challenged differently across the Nation. Significant progress has been made over the past five years to increase and maintain the 32 core capabilities. However, continued work remains to enhance and sustain these capabilities to increase the nation's resilience to all threats and hazards.

Findings are derived from quantitative and qualitative data submitted by 241 urban areas, states, territories, tribes, and Federal departments and agencies. The NPR uses over 450 distinct data sources to report on the state of national preparedness at the local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal levels. The report also integrates data from the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment process and State Preparedness Reports from the 56 states and territories. For the entire report, go to <https://www.hsd.org/c/its-here-the-2016-national-preparedness-report/>.

MEMA'S MISSION STATEMENT

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

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